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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Takoma Park Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Takoma Park Historic District

## 2 LOCATION

Bounded on south by District of Columbia, on north and west  
STREET & NUMBER by Silver Spring, Maryland and on east by Prince George's County, Md.

CITY, TOWN

Takoma Park

VICINITY OF

Fifth

STATE

Maryland

CDDE  
24

Montgomery  
Prince George's

COUNTY

031

CDDE

003

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☒ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☒ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☒ PARK  
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☒ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Public and Private Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

City of Takoma Park

Maryland

CITY, TOWN

Takoma Park

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Maryland

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse and Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

27 Court House Square

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSIT DRY FDR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

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## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Takoma Park historic district is divided into two sections. The first begins at the southeast corner of Woodbury Drive and Chicago Avenue and then northeast along the center of Chicago Avenue to Philadelphia Avenue then southeast along the center of Philadelphia Avenue to the rear property lines of the Takoma Avenue lots of Block 73 then south east with the rear property lines to the center of New York Avenue then southeast with New York Avenue to the rear property lines of the Buffalo Avenue lots of Block 75 then south with the property lines to the center of Albany Avenue then southeast with the center of Albany Avenue to Baltimore Avenue then northeast with the center of Baltimore Avenue to the intersection with Cleveland Avenue then southeast in a straight line from the intersection Baltimore Avenue and Cleveland Avenue to the intersection of Dogwood Avenue and Birch Avenue (which includes a line between lots 7, 8, 23, 24 of Block 83) then to Cedar Avenue then north with the center of Cedar Avenue to Philadelphia Avenue then south and southeast with the center of Philadelphia Avenue and Valley View Avenue to Willow Avenue, then southwest with the center of Willow Avenue to Carroll Avenue, then west with Carroll Avenue to the Maryland-District of Columbia Boundary then northwest with that boundary to Takoma Avenue then northwest with the center of Takoma Avenue to Woodberry Drive then northwest with Woodberry Drive to the beginning.

The second section of the historic district begins at the intersection of Columbia Avenue and Ethan Avenue and extends east with the center of Ethan Avenue to Woodland Avenue then southeast with the center of Woodland Avenue to the rear property lines of the lots of block 23 then west with the rear property lines to Sycamore Avenue then south with the center of Sycamore Avenue to the center of Elm Avenue, then west with Elm Avenue including abutting Spring Park to the rear property lines of the lots facing on Pine Avenue on Block 16, then north with the rear property lines to Carroll Avenue, then east with the center of Carroll Avenue to Columbia Avenue then north and east with the center of Columbia Avenue to the beginning.

The two-section historic district in Takoma Park is a residential community founded in the early 1880's which retains the original relationship of suburban structures to each other and to the town as a whole. The intentions of the town's founder, B.F. Gilbert, to create a sylvan suburb within easy reach of Washington, D.C, have continued to the present day. The district is in two parts in order to isolate those areas in Takoma Park which best represent the historic character of the town. The individual structures possess a sense of cohesiveness of design expressed in the rhythm established by the large lot sizes in relation to the buildings on them; in the vernacular expression of the popular architectural styles of the late 19th through early 20th centuries including Queen Anne, Georgian Revival and bungalow, in the predominance of wood as the principal building material in both shingle and clapboard exteriors; in the historical associations of Takoma Park with the American suburban movement as well as with the Seventh Day Adventist Church who chose Takoma Park for its headquarters in 1903, and finally, the integrity of the district derives from an intangible

(See continuation sheet # 1.)

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impact of time and place on visitors. 1

The following description of specific structures define and exemplify the architectural quality of Takoma Park.

7100 Cedar Avenue is located on the west side of the street. A two story round turret dominates the principal facade projecting from the wall plane. Its conical roof is terminated with a circular finial. The turret has three narrow one over one sash windows on the first floor with two similar windows on the second floor. The exterior is treated with clapboard on the first floor and fish scale shingles on the second floor. A one story porch beginning at the turret crosses the southern half of the street facade and wraps around the southern elevation. The entrance is located next to the turret under the porch. An oval traceried window is located on the second story above the entrance. The hip roof has an attic window composed of five circular openings. The roof undulates making a dormer. There is one plain brick chimney on the north facade.

A cornice encircles the house and is the design repeated as a belt course around the building becoming a cornice for the flat porch roof.

7209 Cedar Avenue with its long, low proportions recalls the popular adaptation of houses of the Prairie school. A shingled, one story porch encloses the street and south elevations. Although the porch consists of no more than an arcade, entrance to the house gives the dark, mysterious quality best handled by Frank Lloyd Wright

The entrance is set slightly off center (toward the south) next to a wide rectangular chimney which continues up through the roof in uniform dimensions. One window is located immediately south of the chimney, three other windows are distributed along the remaining (northern) section of the facade. On the second floor major architectural elements including the fenestration depart from the pattern set below. A pair of windows is centered in the northern third of the wall. The central third is taken up with a turret which is flat on the west side but rounded on the ends as it attaches to the wall. An arched window is located in each of the curved sections. Conical

1 The criteria for historic districts was taken from William Murtagh's "Proposed District Criteria," first presented at the North American International Regional Conference of the International Center for the Study of

(see continuation sheet # 2)

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Footnote (continued)

the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, September 10, 1972.  
and reprinted for the meeting of State Historic Preservation Officers,  
Washington, D.C. January 31, 1973.

No. 7 Description continued.

roof repeats the form of the tower. The remaining third consists of one window and the chimney. The gambrel roof contains one polygonal dormer located above the paired second story windows. A second chimney breaks the roof ridge behind the dormer. An ersatz-brick wall surface lessens the impact of this shingle style structure.

7105 Holly Avenue is a late vernacular treatment of the cottage style of the mid-19th century. The many gabled elevations and the carpenter's Gothic verge boards attest to this fact in spite of the present asbestos wall covering. The central block of the house has a steeply pitched hop roof with a projecting gable bay at the northernmost corner. A three sided addition with a window on each face on the first and second story extends the gable projection. A three part window lights the attic story. A similar gable bay is located on the south elevation at the eastern end. In contrast this bay does not have the three sided projection but has a flat wall surface, and the attic window is round. The hip roof has a deep overhang on the southwest corner of the house creating a porch-like recess on the second story. A bracket supports the roof. Below on the first story a one story porch shelters the entrance door on the west elevation and extends around to the south.

7116 Maple Avenue follows the cottage mode. The brick two and a half story house was illustrated in an 1886 promotional catalog of Takoma Park. The structure is "T" shaped with a one and a half story block cut perpendicularly by a projecting three story tower and a two and a half story gable wing extending beyond the tower. All the corners of the house have quoins. The one and a half story wing has an A-roof broken on the southeast facade by peaked windows extending above the cornice line. The tower, while containing the principal entrance, has a four faced, flat topped roof with a kick in the eaves. The projecting gable wing is located in the center of the structure (the tower sits in the south). The first and second stories have a pair of long narrow windows centrally placed on the gable end. A finial sits at the peak of the gable and on the northern end. Its mate at the southern end of the roof does not exist. A one story brick-style porch encircles the gable-end wing. The square piers which support the roof are connected at the bottom with a jig-saw cut balustrade.

(see continuation sheet # 3)

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7213 Maple Avenue is a two and a half story house composed of a main block and a cross gable extending to the northwest. The cross gable wing is executed in a series of hood like projections. The projection at the peak of the gable shelters a pair of attic windows. The attic level, in turn, creates a "hood" over the second story which has a pair of windows. (The first floor of the gable has one centrally placed window.) A one story porch begins immediately beneath the window and extends across the southwest facade and to the southwest to join the main block of the house. A trellis motif comprises the balustrade and is repeated below the cornice of the porch roof.

7004 Sycamore Avenue presents an interesting and varied silhouette. At one corner an octagonal tower projects from the roof of the two and a half story structure. Each face of the tower has one window while the eight sided tower roof has a peaked dormer in every other face. The end of the principal gable of the house sits next to the tower and is hidden behind a "shed" roof extending to the main cornice and second lower gable end containing a pair of attic windows. The cove cornice encircles the building, including the three sided bay of the tower, as well as a third cross gable at the rear. A concave "kick" in the wall at the bottom of the second story tops a belt course above the slightly recessed first story. On the principal facade a one story porch shelters the entrance and extends from the three sided base of the tower half-way across the facade. The remainder of the wall surface is occupied by a three sided bay window under its own shed roof. The entire structure is covered with asbestos shingles.

7704 Takoma Avenue is dominated by the roof lines of the southeast facade. The slope of the principal A roof faces the street. A cross gable which breaks the line of this roof in the center of the structure, projects from the wall plane over two second story windows. The gable end has one window and is covered with fish scale shingles. (The shingle motif and one attic window is repeated in the south west and north east gable ends.) Immediately below the cornice line a second A roof begins extending beyond the wall surface to create a porch at the first story. Under the porch a two bay section at the northeast end of the first story projects midway between the terminus of the porch and the wall plane of the house. A two story three sided projection is located at the northwest corner of the southwest facade. The first and second stories are covered with narrow clapboard.

The following is a list of the addresses of the structures of merit in Takoma Park.

Philadelphia Avenue 612

Takoma Avenue 7301, 7323, 7700, 7704, 7705, 7709, 7711, 7713, 7715

(See continuation sheet # 4)

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Buffalo Avenue 7417, 7422, 7427.

Baltimore Avenue 7300, 7308, 7311, 7319, 7325, 7403, 7407, 7409.

Piney Branch Road 7307, 7309, 7311, 7315, 7410, 7524.

Holly Avenue 7105, 7203, 7206, 7211, 7210, 7213, 7214, 7217, 7216,  
7219, 7301, 7303, 7304.

Cedar Avenue 7101, 7103, 7105, 7111, 7116, 7100, 7112, 7115, 7209, 7211,  
7212, 7214, 7221, 7204, 7309, 7421, 7300.

Maple Avenue 7102, 7104, 7106, 7108, 7116, 7122, 7124, 7137, 7139, 7207,  
7209, 7213, 7219, 7302, 7208, 7305, 7310, 7316, 7402, 7408, 7410, 7412  
7414, 7416

Tulip Avenue 201, 210, 214.

Eastern Avenue 7047.

Pine Avenue 7, 10, 25, 27, 17, 19.

Montgomery Avenue 5, 10, 15, 20, 24.

Hickory Avenue 4, 5, 6, 10, 14, 18, 22, 28, 30, 32, 33, 35, 37.

Columbia Avenue 20, 23, 24.

Poplar Avenue 7009, 7015, 7017, 7105, 7110, 7113.

Baltimore Avenue 7004, 7007, 7111, 7116, 7117, 7119.

Woodland Avenue 7012, 7014, 7104, 7110, 7114, 7118.

Woodland Avenue 7012, 7014, 7104, 7110, 7114, 7118

Beech Avenue 403.

Willow Avenue 7212 (Home of Ulrick S. Dunbar an American Sculptor.)

Intrusions

The intrusions in the historic district consist of mid-twentieth century construction: The Montgomery College Fenton-New York Avenue area, the adaptation of structures for commercial use in the 7100 block of Maple, Carroll and Willows Avenues, the highrise Takoma Tower on Carroll Avenue and Garden Apartments on the 400 block of Tulip Avenue. These structures date from a low period of appreciation of the districts special characteristics which has survived the intrusions.

# SIGNIFICANCE

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## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 99	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) historic
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

## SPECIFIC DATES

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The chief significance of Takoma Park is derived from its association with the growth of commuter suburbs, one of the major themes of urban history. "From the beginning of the growth of towns and cities in the United States, the possibility of combining the benefits of the country with the advantages of the city-- 'The happy union of urbanity and musticity'--had been a part of the conception of community!"<sup>1</sup> In 1883 Benjamin Franklin Gilbert, a New York Congressman, capitalized on this idea in the Maryland environs of the national capital. He purchased a ninety acre tract at the junction of the boundaries of Montgomery County, Prince George's County District. Through his real estate company he began the sale of speculative houses and lots. His promotional brochures of the 1880's laud the benefits of rural living. The glowing copy quickly attracted buyers. By 1886 Takoma Park has a population of 100. Four years later it was incorporated with Gilbert he town's first mayor.

The success of Gilbert's venture and of those that followed him (Forest Glen, Kensington, Garrett Park, in the same area) was predicated upon the existence of commuter service to the capital on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. In the 1890's street car lines stretched north from Washington facilitating to a greater degree Takoma Park's success. The example of Takoma Park dramatically illustrates the direct relationship of transportation to the location and to the viability of suburban extra-urban communities.

Gilbert took a further step to insure the success of Takoma Park by constructing a large resort hotel. His example was followed by several others. The combination of permanent residences with summer, resort oriented facilities is a re-occurrent theme in 19th century extra-urban communities.

The designated district retains the original character Gilbert wanted to impart in his development. The physical integrity of the first years of Takoma Park has remained unchanged. The assemblage of buildings in the

<sup>1</sup> Charles N. Glaab and A. Theodore Brown, A History of Urban America. New York, 1967, 154.

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physical setting characterized the period of the towns founding and growth, namely the 1880's and 1890's. A comparison of the original plats with the present city map reveals that the community of the 1970's conforms with the original pattern. Structures illustrated in initial promotional brochures still stand. The following decades prior to World War I saw the most intense periods of construction. These structures followed, if not the same style, the same vernacular interpretation of popular contemporary architecture as the initial residence and its translation into dwellings. The diversity of facade treatments contrasts with the uniformity of rhythm, proportion, building materials, set back and landscaping which defines the street scape of the historic districts in Takoma Park.

The proximity of Takoma Park to the capital assured its continued success. Professionals moved to Takoma Park as they continue to do today. Although the city underwent a period of decline after the Second World War, its picturesque streets derived from historic character and advantageous location are causing a community revival.

Takoma Park has significance in modern religious history as the location of the headquarters of an unusual and typically American religious denomination Seventh Day Adventists. Although the conflicts surrounding the establishment of the Church (1903) resulted in the decline of the resort hotels in Takoma Park - The Seventh Day Adventists oppose drinking, gambling and dancing. The church brought institutions to the city, e.g. Washington Sanitarium; and spurred development as well as future stability.



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Vol. III. No. 8, 2-4.

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(see continuation sheet # 6 )

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 145 acres

## UTM REFERENCES

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Takoma Park historic district is divided into two sections. The first begins at the southeast corner of Woodbury Drive and Chicago Avenue and then northeast along the center of Chicago Avenue to Philadelphia Avenue then southeast along the center of Philadelphia Avenue to the rear property lines of the Takoma Avenue lots of Block 73 then south east with the rear property lines to the center of New York Avenue (See continuation

(See continuation sheet # 7 ).

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	Maryland	CODE	24	COUNTY	Prince George's	CODE	033
STATE	Maryland	CODE	24	COUNTY	Montgomery	CODE	031

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dolores C. Stowell, Executive Director

## ORGANIZATION

Takoma Park Preservation Association

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET &amp; NUMBER

7704 Takoma Avenue

April 27, 1973

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

## Takoma Park

STATE

Maryland

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

**TITLE**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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